



# Committee On Finance

**Max Baucus, Ranking Member**

---

**NEWS RELEASE**

**<http://finance.senate.gov>**

For Immediate Release  
Monday, November 10, 2003

Contact: Laura Hayes  
202-224-4515

**Statement of U.S. Senator Max Baucus  
World Trade Organization Steel Safeguard Ruling**

"I am deeply disappointed that the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body today affirmed the panel decision against the United States on its steel safeguard measures. I was a primary supporter of instituting the safeguard action, and I continue to believe that American steel companies need the breathing space the safeguard allows. I also feel strongly that the U.S. law and process in this case were entirely consistent with our WTO obligations, but the WTO's review of the case failed to accord U.S. actions sufficient deference.

The WTO's repeated failure to apply the proper standard of review undermines both the integrity of domestic trade laws and the WTO as an institution. Further, the EU's insistence on imposing retaliatory measures without observing established rules of dispute resolution compliance is unfair and counterproductive. These should be matters of concern for anyone who cares about the future of the global trading system. The safeguard remedy serves an important role as a safety valve against the flow of excessive imports. Without it, the consensus in favor of liberalization in the United States and in other countries might be seriously weakened.

This decision shows once again that the Administration needs to do something about the badly flawed WTO dispute settlement process. As a first step, the Administration should support my proposal for a WTO Dispute Settlement Review Commission. The Commission would increase the transparency of the WTO dispute settlement system by examining whether WTO decisions apply the proper standard of review and avoid creating obligations that were never negotiated."

###